

Executive Summary

THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT is pleased to present the 2004 Florida Forever Work Plan. The purpose of the Florida Forever Work Plan is to present projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act (Section 259.105, F.S.), and to report on progress and changes since the January 1, 2003 submission.

In 1999, the Florida Forever Program was created, which authorized the issuance of up to \$3 billion in bonds over a 10-year period, to be used for land acquisition (including less-than-fee purchases), water resource development, stormwater management, water body restoration, recreational facility construction, public access improvements, invasive plant control, and related projects. The program is intended to accomplish environmental restoration, enhance public access and recreational enjoyment, promote long-term management goals, and facilitate water resource development.

The water management districts create a five-year plan that identifies projects meeting specific criteria for the Florida Forever program. Each district integrates its surface water improvement and management plans,

Save Our Rivers (SOR) land acquisition lists, stormwater management projects, proposed water resource development and water body restoration projects

and other activities that support the goals of Florida Forever.


Thirty-five percent of the Florida Forever bond proceeds are distributed annually to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for land acquisition and capital expenditures in order to implement the priority lists submitted by the water management districts. Over the life of the program, a minimum of 50 percent of the funding is to be used for land acquisition. The South Florida Water Management District's annual net share is \$33,075,000. Including Florida Forever funding, a total of \$282.2 million was spent in fiscal year (FY) 2003 to acquire 19,438 acres of land. In addition, the District surplused a less-than-fee interest and granted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under the Wetlands Reserve Program a conservation easement over 15,369 acres of the Allapattah Ranch acquisition for \$23 million.

The Florida Forever Work Plan lists and describes the 61 projects eligible for Florida Forever funding in the FY 2004-2008 period. The list of eligible projects includes CERP projects, SOR projects and water quality and supply initiatives, plans and studies. The *Estimated Five-Year SFWMD Real Estate Expenditures* to purchase lands for eligible CERP projects is projected to total a billion dollars, approximately \$200 million yearly. Additionally, expenditures to acquire land for the Kissimmee River Restoration and SOR projects are estimated to total \$34.5 million (**Chapter 1**).



In addition to the regional project descriptions, the Florida Forever Work Plan provides system-wide and regional descriptions of land use, water quality, water management practices, physical conditions and other characteristics as required by statutes. The work plan includes a report

on real estate acquisition activity performed in FY 2003 (**Appendix C**). This plan also provides performance measures (**Appendix A**), a listing of Projects eligible for Florida Forever funding (**Appendix B**) and the CERP implementation schedule (**Appendix D**).

The majority of this document is being provided exclusively on CD-ROM. This allows for a wider distribution than would be possible with traditional printed copies. Individuals who require paper copies may print them directly from the CD or provide the CD to any duplication service for production. 

Eligible Florida Forever Projects

CERP PROJECTS

Full Scale Projects

Acme Basin B Discharge
Big Cypress/L-28
Bird Drive Recharge Area
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
Broward County Secondary Canal System
Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPA)
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir
C-111 Spreader Canal
Caloosahatchee Backpump
Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir, Part 1 & 2
Everglades National Park Seepage Management
Florida Keys Tidal Restoration Flow to NW and Central WCA-3A
Indian River Lagoon – South
Lake Okeechobee Watershed
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures
North Palm Beach County, Part 1
Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir
Site 1 Impoundment
Southern Golden Gates Estates Hydrologic Restoration
Strazzulla Wetlands
WCA 3A/3B
Decomartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement, Part 1

WCA -2B Flows to Everglades National Park (ENP)
WPA Conveyance

Pilot Projects

Lake Okeechobee ASR Pilot
Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Pilot
Caloosahatchee ASR Pilot
Hillsboro ASR Pilot
L-31N Seepage Management Pilot
Wastewater Reuse Pilot

KISSIMMEE REGION PROJECTS

Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Study
Kissimmee Basin Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Study
Kissimmee Basin Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Study
Kissimmee River Restoration Project Study
Kissimmee River Restoration Project
Upper Kissimmee Basin Long-Term Management Plan

SAVE OUR RIVERS PROJECTS

CREW
Henscratch Ranch
Kissimmee River
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL)

Lake Marion Creek
Pal-Mar
Reedy Creek

OTHER ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Belle Meade Acquisition Project
Biscayne Bay Partnership Initiative Implementation
Biscayne Bay SWIM Plan
Caloosahatchee River Watershed Initiatives
Charlotte Harbor Watershed Initiatives
Estero Bay Watershed
Florida Bay Initiative
Four Corners
Indian River Lagoon (IRL) SWIM Plan
Lake Istokpoga
Lake Okeechobee SWIM Plan
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative
Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan
Loxahatchee Preservation Initiative
Naples Bay Initiative
Okeechobee County
St. Lucie River Issue Team